

DOCKET NO: 290297US2PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
VERONIQUE SOUSA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: C.M. ROLAND  
SERIAL NO: 10/577,159 :  
FILED: DECEMBER 6, 2006 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2893  
FOR: PHASE CHANGE MEMORY ELEMENT WITH IMPROVED CYCLABILITY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated July 11, 2011, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 41-59 remain pending.

As set forth in Claim 41, the present invention relates to a phase-change memory cell, comprising:

between two electrical contacts, a portion in a memory material with an amorphous-crystalline phase-change and vice versa, as a stack with an active central area located between two passive outmost areas; and

an interface between the active central area and each passive outmost area, each passive outmost area being made in a material having a melting temperature higher than that of the material of the active central area, the material of the passive outmost areas having very low solubility or zero solubility in the material of the active central area, the material of the passive outmost areas being a chalcogenide having the same chemical nature with a